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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/492,369 01/27/00 BLAHA

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EXAMINER

MMC2/1121

Joel H. Bock
Dorn, McEachram, Jambor & Keating
55 E. Monroe Street
Suite 2940
Chicago IL 60603

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ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED:

11/21/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/492,369

Applicant(s)

BLAHA, WILLIAM E.

Examiner

Shanetta D. Ore

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been:
1. ☐ received.
2. ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code / Serial Number) ____.
3. ☐ received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. & 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 20) ☒ Other: Attachments 1-3.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the method of connecting two or more wires having conductors to a common terminus, comprising the steps of providing a push-in connector having a connected to the conductive clip and extending to the exterior of the housing, pushing the stripped ends of the conductors of the first and second wires into the housing and into engagement with the clip, and attaching the extension to the terminus and, the method of a insulation displacement connector having a conductive clip providing a conductive extension electrically connected to the clip extending to the exterior of the housing, placing first and second wires adjacent the clip, closing the housing to force the wires' conductor into engagement with the clip, and attaching the extension to the terminus must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. It is not clearly understood if the two-part housing of claim 3 is the same housing of claim 1 or a completely different housing. Appropriate correction is required. For Purposes of examination the two-part housing will be treated as defining the housing of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jacques (5,597,321) in view of Benes et al (5,547,391).

Regarding claim 1, Jacques discloses a wire connector joining two or more incoming wires (10), a housing (1), walls (Col. 4, line 46-49), cavity (4), openings (14), conductive clip extending through housing walls (see Attachment 2). Jacques does not disclose a clip having first and second retaining fingers. Benes et al teaches a clip having a first and second retaining fingers (34a & 34b). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design the wire connector of Jacques with a conductive clip having first and second retaining fingers of Benes et al to allow the first finger to restrain the wires prior to insertions into their respective wire-terminating slots and a second finger to secure the wires after they have been inserted into the slots.

Regarding claim 2, Jacques discloses a conductive clip having a plurality of tines (see Attachment 2).

Regarding claim 3, Jacques discloses a two-part housing with base and cap (see Attachments 1 & 2).

Regarding claim 4, Jacques discloses a conductive clip with a plurality of finger forming a push-in connector (see Attachment 2).

Regarding claim 5, Jacques discloses an extension blade-type (Col. 3, line 35- 40).

Regarding claim 6, Jacques discloses substantially the invention as claimed. Jacques does not disclose the extension of wire is a pigtail.

Regarding claim 7, Jacques discloses a method of connecting two or more wires to a common terminus with a push -in wire connector (Col. 5, line 18-27),

Regarding claim 8, Jacques discloses a method of connecting two or more wires having common terminus with an insulation displacement connector (Col. 6, line 56-67 and Col. 7, 1-14).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shanetta D. Ore whose telephone number is (703) 308-2854. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 - 4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7724 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.

sdo

November 8, 2000



Paula Bradley

Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800

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FIG. 6

